

PRO

2. An admonisher; a reminder.
We understand our duty without a teacher, and acquit ourselves as we ought to do without a *prompter*. *L'Estrange*.
PROMPTITUDE. *n. f.* [from *promptus*, Fr. from *promptus*, Lat.] Readiness; quickness.
PROMPTLY. *adv.* [from *promptus*.] Readily; quickly; expeditiously.
He that does his merchandise cheerfully, *promptly* and readily, and the works of religion slowly, it is a sign that his heart is not right with God. *Taylor*.
PROMPTNESS. *n. f.* [from *promptus*.] Readiness; quickness; alacrity.
Had not this stop been given him by that accidental sickness, his great courage and *promptness* of mind would have carried him directly forward to the enemy, till he had met him in the open plains of Persia. *South's Sermons*.
Firm and rigid muscles, strong pulse, activity, and *promptness* in animal actions, are signs of strong fibres. *Arbutnot*.
PROMPTURE. *n. f.* [from *promptus*.] Suggestion; motion given by another; instigation. A word not used.
Though he hath fallen by *prompture* of the blood; Yet hath he in him such a mind of honour, That had he twenty heads to tender down On twenty bloody blocks, he'd yield them up. *Shakespeare*.
PROMPTUARY. *n. f.* [from *promptuarius*, Lat.] A storehouse; a repository; a magazine.
This stratum is still expanded at top, serving as the seminary or *promptuary*, that furnisheth forth matter for the formation of animal and vegetable bodies. *Woodward*.
TO PROMULGATE. *v. a.* [from *promulgare*, Lat.] To publish; to make known by open declaration.
Those albeit I know he nothing so much hateth as to *promulgate*, yet I hope that this will occasion him to put forth divers other goodly works. *Spenser*.
Those to whom he entrusted the *promulgating* of the gospel, had far different instructions. *Decay of Piety*.
It is certain laws, by virtue of any function they receive from the *promulgated* will of the legislature, reach not a stranger, if by the law of nature every man hath not a power to punish offences against it. *Locke*.
PROMULGATION. *n. f.* [from *promulgatio*, Lat. from *promulgare*.] Publication; open exhibition.
The stream and current of this rule hath gone as far, it hath continued as long as the very *promulgation* of the gospel. *Hooker*, b. v. f. 42.
The very *promulgation* of the punishment will be part of the punishment, and anticipate the execution. *South*.
PROMULGATOR. *n. f.* [from *promulgator*.] Publisher; open teacher.
How groundless a calumny this is, appears from the sanctity of the christian religion, which excludes fraud and falsehood; so also from the designs and aims of its first *promulgators*. *Decay of Piety*.
TO PROMULGE. *v. a.* [from *promulgo*, Lat.] To promulgate; to publish; to teach openly.
The chief design of them is, to establish the truth of a new revelation in those countries, where it is first *promulgated* and propagated. *Atterbury*.
PROMULGER. *n. f.* [from *promulgator*.] Publisher; promulgator.
The *promulgators* of our religion, Jesus Christ and his apostles, raised men and women from the dead, not once only, but often. *Atterbury*.
PROMOTOR. *n. f.* In anatomy, a muscle of the radius, of which there are two, that help to turn the palm downwards. *Dict.*
PRONE. *adj.* [from *pronus*, Latin.]
1. Bending downward; not erect.
There wanted yet a creature not *prone*, And brute as other creatures, but indu'd With sanctity of reason, might erect His stature, and upright with front serene Govern the rest. *Milton's Par. Lost*, b. vii.
2. Lying with the face downwards: contrary to supine.
Upon these three positions in man, wherein the spine can only be at right lines with the thigh, arise those postures, *prone*, supine and erect. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.
3. Precipitous; headlong; going downwards.
Down thither *prone* in flight He speeds, and through the vast ethereal sky Sails between worlds. *Milton's Par. Lost*, b. v.
4. Declivous; sloping.
Since the floods demand, For their descent, a *prone* and sinking land: Does not this due declivity declare A wife director's providential care? *Blackmore*.
5. Inclined; propense; disposed. It has commonly an ill sense.
The labour of doing good, with the pleasure arising from the contrary, doth make men for the most part flower to the one and *prone* to the other, than that duty, prescribed them by law, can prevail sufficiently with them. *Hooker*.
Those who are ready to confess him in judgment and profession, are very *prone* to deny him shamefully in their doings. *South's Sermons*.

If we are *prone* to sedition, and delight in change, there is no cure more proper than trade, which supplies business to the active, and wealth to the indigent. *Addison*.
Still *prone* to change, though still the slaves of state. *Pope*.
PRONENESS. *n. f.* [from *prone*.]
1. The state of bending downwards; not erectness.
If erectness be taken, as it is largely opposed unto *proneness*, or the posture of animals looking downwards, carrying their venters, or opposite part to the spine, directly towards the earth, it may admit of question. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.
2. The state of lying with the face downwards; not supineness.
3. Deficent; declivity.
4. Inclination; propension; disposition to ill.
The holy spirit saw that mankind is unto virtue hardly drawn, and that righteousness is the less accounted of, by reason of the *proneness* of our affections to that which delighteth. *Hooker*, b. v. f. 8.
The soul being first from nothing brought, When God's grace fails her, doth to nothing fall; And this declining *proneness* unto nought, Is ev'n that sin that we are born withal. *Davies*.
He instituted this way of worship, because of the casualty of their hearts, and their *proneness* of the people to idolatry. *Tillotson's Sermons*.
The *proneness* of good men to commiserate want, in what soever shape it appears. *Atterbury's Sermons*.
How great is the *proneness* of our nature, to comply with this temptation. *Rogers's Sermons*.
PRONG. *n. f.* [from *prongen*, Dutch, to squeeze. *Alphabetic*.] A fork.
The cooks make no more ado, but slicing it into little gobbets, prick it on a *prong* of iron, and hang it in a furnace. *Sandy's Journey*.
Whacum his sea-coal *prong* threw by, And bawly turn'd his back to fly. *Hudibras*.
Be mindful, With iron teeth of rakes and *prongs* to move The crusted earth. *Dryden's Virg. Georg.*
PRONITY. *n. f.* [from *prone*.] Proneness. A word not used.
Of this mechanick *pronity*, I do not see any good tendency. *More's Divine Dialogues*.
PRONOUN. *n. f.* [from *pronomen*, Fr. from *pronomina*, Lat.]
I, thou, he; we, ye, they, are names given to persons, and used instead of their proper names, from whence they had the name of *pronouns*, as though they were not nouns themselves, but used instead of nouns. *Clarke's Lat. Gram.*
TO PRONOUNCE. *v. a.* [from *pronunciare*, Fr. from *pronunciatio*, Lat.]
1. To speak; to utter.
He *pronounced* all these words unto me with his mouth. *Jer. xxxv. 18*.
2. To utter solemnly; to utter confidently.
She So good a lady, that no tongue could ever Pronounce dishonour of her. *Shakespeare Henry VIII.*
I have *pronounced* the word, faith the Lord. *Jer. xxxiv. 5*.
So was his will Pronounc'd among the gods. *Milton*.
Sternly he *pronounc'd* the rigid interdiction. *Milton*.
The *pronouncing* of sentence of death is the office of inferior magistrates. *Locke*.
Abialom *pronounced* a sentence of death against his brother. *Locke*.
3. To form or articulate by the organs of speech.
Language of man *pronounc'd* By tongue of brute, and human sense express'd. *Milton*.
Though diversity of tongues continue, this would render the *pronouncing* them easier. *Holder*.
4. To utter rhetorically.
TO PRONOUNCE. *v. n.* To speak with confidence or authority.
How confidently soever men *pronounce* of themselves, and believe that they are then most pious, when they are most eager and unquiet; yet 'tis sure this is far removed from the true genius of religion. *Decay of Piety*.
Every fool may believe, and *pronounce* confidently; but wise men will, in matters of discourse, conclude firmly, and in matters of fact, act surely. *South's Sermons*.
PRONOUNCER. *n. f.* [from *pronunciator*.] One who pronounces.
The *pronouncer* thereof shall be condemned in expences. *Ayliffe's Parergon*.
PRONUNCIATION. *n. f.* [from *pronunciatio*, from *pronunciare*, Lat. from *pronunciatio*, Fr.] The act or mode of utterance.
The design of speaking being to communicate our thoughts by ready, easy and graceful *pronunciation*, all kind of letters have been searched out, that were serviceable for the purpose. *Holder*.
It were easy to produce thousands of his verses, which are lame for want of half a foot, sometimes a whole one, and which no *pronunciation* can make otherwise. *Dryden*.
PROOF.

PRO

PROOF. *n. f.* [from *probo*.]
1. Evidence; testimony; convincing token; convincing argument; means of conviction.
That they all have always so testified, I see not how we should possibly with a *proof* more palpable than this. *Hooker*.
This has neither evidence of truth, nor *proof* sufficient to give it warrant. *Hooker*.
Though the manner of their trials should be altered, yet the *proof* of every thing must needs be by the testimony of such persons as the parties shall produce. *Spenser*.
That which I shall report will bear no credit. *Shakespeare*.
Were not the *proof* so high. *Shakespeare*.
One foul in both, whereof good *proof* This day affords. *Milton*.
This, ver'd in death, th' infernal knight relates, And then for *proof* fulfill'd their common fates. *Dryden*.
Those intervening ideas, which serve to shew the agreement of any two others, are called *proofs*. *Locke*.
2. Test; trial; experiment.
Retire or taste thy folly, and learn by *proof*, Hell-born I not to contend with spirits of heav'n. *Milton*.
Samson, This day to Dagon is a solemn feast, Thy strength they know surpassing human race, And now some publick *proof* thereof require To honour this great feast. *Milton's Agonistes*.
When the imagination hath contrived the frame of such an instrument, and conceives that the event must infallibly answer its hopes, yet then does it strangely deceive in the *proof*. *Wilkins's Math. Magic*.
Gave, while he taught, and edify'd the more, Because he shew'd, by *proof*, 'twas easy to be poor. *Dryden*.
My paper gives a timorous writer an opportunity of putting his abilities to the *proof*. *Addison*.
Here for ever must I stay, Sad *proof* how well a lover can obey. *Pope*.
3. Firm temper; impenetrability; the state of being wrought and hardened, till the expected strength is found by trial to be attained.
Add *proof* unto mine armour with thy prayers, And with thy blessings steel my lance's point. *Shakespeare*.
To me the cries of fighting fields are charms, Keen be my fabre, and of *proof* my arms; I ask no other blessing of my stars. *Dryden*.
With arms of *proof*, both for myself and thee, Chuse thou the best. *Dryden*.
4. Armour hardened till it will abide a certain trial.
He Bellona's bridegroom, lapt in *proof*, Confronted him. *Shakespeare Macbeth*.
5. In printing, the rough draught of a sheet when first pulled. *PROOF*. *adj.* [This word, though used as an adjective, is only elliptically put for *of proof*.]
1. Impenetrable; able to resist.
Now put your shields before your hearts, and fight With hearts more *proof* than shields. *Shakespeare*.
Opportunity I here have had To try thee, fit thee, and confests have found thee *Proof* against all temptation, as a rock Of adamant. *Milton's Par. Regain'd*.
He past expression lov'd, *Proof* to disdain, and not to be remov'd. *Dryden*.
When the mind is thoroughly tinctured, the man will be *proof* against all oppositions. *Collier*.
Guileless of hate, and *proof* against desire; That all things weighs, and nothing can admire. *Dryden*.
When a capuchin, that was thought *proof* against bribes, had undertaken to carry on the work, he died a little after. *Addison*.
2. It has either to or against before the power to be resisted.
Imagin'd wife, Constant, mature, *proof* against all assaults. *Milton*.
Deep in the snowy Alps, a lump of ice By frost was harden'd to a mighty price; *Proof* to the sun it now securely lies, And the warm dog-star's hottest rage defies. *Addison*.
The God of day, To make him *proof* against the burning ray, His temples with celestial ointment wet. *Addison*.
PROOFLESS. *adj.* [from *proof*.] Unproved; wanting evidence.
Some were so manifestly weak and *proofless*, that he must be a very courteous adversary, that can grant them. *Boyle*.
TO PROPE. *v. a.* [from *propere*, Dutch.]
1. To support by something placed under or against.
What we by day Lop overgrown, or *prop*, or bind, One night derides. *Milton*.
2. To support by standing under or against.
Like these earth unsupported keeps its place, Though no fix'd bottom *prope* the weighty mass. *Creech*.
Eternal knows the growing mass supply, Till the bright mountains *prop* th' incumbent sky; As Atlas fix'd each heavy pile appears. *Pope*.
3. To sustain; to support.
The nearer I find myself verging to that period, which is to be labour and sorrow, the more I *prop* myself upon those few supports that are left me. *Pope*.
PROP. *n. f.* [from *propere*, Dutch.] A support; a stay; that on which any thing rests.
The boy was the very staff of my age, my very *prop*. *Shakespeare*.
You take my house, when you do take the *prop* That doth sustain my house; you take my life, When you do take the means whereby I live. *Shakespeare*.
Some plants creep along the ground, or wind about other trees or *props*, and cannot support themselves. *Bacon*.
That he might on many *props* repose, He strengthens his own, and who his part did take. *Daniel*.
Again, if by the body's *prop* we stand, If on the body's life, her life depend, As Meleager's on the fatal brand, The body's good the only would intend. *Davies*.
Fairest unsupported flower From her best *prop* so far. *Milton*.
The current of his victories found no stop, Till Cromwell came, his party's chief *prop*. *Waller*.
'Twas a considerable time before the great fragments that fell rested in a firm posture; for the *props* and stays, whereby they leaned one upon another, often failed. *Barnet*.
The *props* return Into thy house, that bore the burden'd vines. *Dryden*.
PROPAGABLE. *adj.* [from *propagare*.] Such as may be spread; such as may be continued by succession.
Such creatures as are produced each by its peculiar seed, constitute a distinct *propagable* sort of creatures. *Boyle*.
TO PROPAGATE. *v. a.* [from *propago*, Latin.]
1. To continue or spread by generation or successive production.
All that I eat, or drink, or shall beget, Is *propagated* curle! *Milton's Par. Lost*, b. x.
Is it an elder brother's duty to To *propagate* his family and name; You would not have yours die and buried with you? *Orway*.
From hills and dales the cheerful cries rebound; For echo hunts along, and *propagates* the sound. *Dryden*.
2. To extend; to widen.
I have upon a high and pleasant hill Feign'd fortune to be thron'd: the base of th' mount Is rank'd with all defects, all kind of natures, That labour on the bosom of this sphere To *propagate* their fates. *Shakespeare Timon of Athens*.
3. To carry on from place to place; to promote.
Some have thought the *propagating* of religion by arms not only lawful, but meritorious. *Decay of Piety*.
Who are those that truth must *propagate*, Within the confines of my father's state. *Dryden*.
Those who seek truth only, and desire to *propagate* nothing else, freely expose their principles to the test. *Locke*.
Because dense bodies conserve their heat a long time, and the densest bodies conserve their heat the longest, the vibrations of their parts are of a lasting nature; and therefore may be *propagated* along solid fibres of uniform dense matter to a great distance, for conveying into the brain the impressions made upon all the organs of sense. *Newton*.
4. To encrease; to promote.
Griefs of mine own lie heavy in my breast, Which thou wilt *propagate*, to have them prest With more of thine. *Shakespeare*.
Sooth'd with his future fame, And pleas'd to hear his *propagated* name. *Dryden*.
5. To generate.
Superstitious notions, *propagated* in fancy, are hardly ever totally eradicated. *Clarissa*.
TO PROPAGATE. *v. n.* To have offspring.
No need that thou Should'st *propagate*, already infinite, And through all numbers absolute, though one. *Milton*.
PROPAGATION. *n. f.* [from *propagatio*, Lat. from *propagare*.] Continuance or diffusion by generation or successive production.
Men have souls rather by creation than *propagation*. *Hooker*.
There are other secondary ways of the *propagation* of it, as lying in the same bed. *Wise's Surgery*.
There is not in all nature any spontaneous generation, but all come by *propagation*, wherein chance hath not the least part. *Ray on the Creation*.
Old stakes of olive trees in plants revives; But nobler vines by *propagation* thrive. *Dryden*.
PROPAGATOR. *n. f.* [from *propagator*.]
1. One who continues by successive production.
2. A spreader; a promoter.
Socrates, the greatest *propagator* of morality, and a martyr for the unity of the Godhead, was so famous for this talent, that he gained the name of the Drole. *Addison*.
TO PROPEL. *v. a.* [from *propello*, Lat.] To drive forward.
Avicen witnesses the blood to be frothy, that is *propelled* out of a vein of the breast. *Harvey*.
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